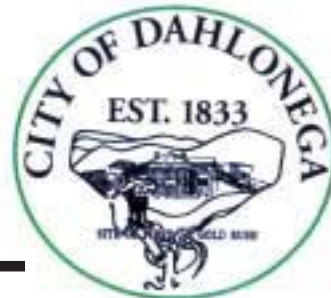


City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia

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SPLOST a City Issue, Too

Voters in November have a chance to approve a plan that will beef up the community's facilities and infrastructure so they can better serve our population size and our community's needs, both now and into the future. Citizens of Dahlonega should be aware that in addition to bringing in money for the county's capital improvement projects, the SPLOST, or Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, also will generate money for the city. The city's portion is earmarked to help pay for a seriously needed new water treatment plant to be built at the Yahoola Creek Reservoir. The existing plant is out of capacity and obsolete. The city's share of the one-cent sales tax will help



complete the new plant, which will provide water to Dahlonega and to the Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority for its customers. Availability of water in the city and county helps attract quality new businesses that bring jobs and expand the tax digest, reducing the tax burden on local property owners. In the long run, city manager Bill Lewis says the SPLOST, if approved, will help keep the cost of the water treatment plant down and help control water rates for everyone. If you have questions or concerns about the upcoming SPLOST vote, please take the time to learn more about it. Ask your city council members or other public officials to explain why they believe it is in the best interest of the community. Information is available also from the Dahlonega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce at 706-864-3711.

Matching Monies

If Dahlonega is awarded a recently-applied-for \$500,000 state Employment Incentive Program grant, the city will be required to put up matching funds. City manager Bill Lewis plans to get as much of that money as possible from outside sources before using city funds. That's why the city also has applied for a



\$280,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant. If the ARC grant is approved, that money would help provide the needed match for the EIP grant. The grants would help pay for seriously needed sewerage system improvements, making possible two lift stations and a force main. Dahlonega is eligible for the grants based on the expansion of Timken US Corporation's Dahlonega plant, which will create 50 new jobs and preserve 10 others. The sewer system upgrades would serve the plant, as well as other city customers.

Water, Sewer Rates Inched Up

Water and sewer rates for city customers have been inched up a

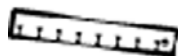
Drop Boxes Handy for Water Bills



City water customers who'd rather drop off their payments than send them by mail may be disappointed that the drive-

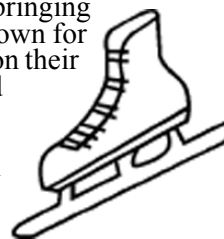
through collection window at City Hall has been closed. That change was necessary because a new modular building blocks the driveway that previously circled the building. But there are still two convenient drop-off boxes: one in front of City Hall where Riley Road ends and the other on West Main Street in front of BB&T Bank, next to the Federal Express drop box. Please, **do not** drop your city water payment in the drop box at the county courthouse. That box is for customers of the Lumpkin County Water & Sewer Authority only.

quarter per thousand gallons, as the city focuses on keeping pace with rising operating and capital improvements costs. The twenty-five-cents-per-gallon increase will amount to an average of \$3 extra on the typical residential customer's bill. Water and sewer tap fees also were increased by 10 percent.



Ice Rink to Warm Up Business Climate

When Chamber of Commerce president Dale Steenbergen approached city leaders earlier this year about bringing an ice skating rink to town for the holidays, they put on their thinking toboggans and decided it was an idea worth exploring. The Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority decided the project was right in line with its mission: to increase tourism and improve the local business climate. Plus, it will be fun for local residents. The DDA put up a \$25,000 sponsorship—a third of the cost—to help bring the rink to town. Of course, the chamber and DDA hope to break even, but they will really measure the success of their investment by how well local businesses in the community do at the cash registers this holiday season. The ice skating rink will be set up at Hancock Park and will operate daily from the Saturday before Thanksgiving Day through mid January. Cost will be \$8 per person...skates included.



Canned Rates



It costs the city of Dahlonega more to provide garbage pick-up service to its customers today than it did a year ago, never mind six years ago.

But six years is how long it had been since the fees for residential garbage service were adjusted until the city recently raised the rate by \$1 per can per month. Monthly cost for residential pick-up is now \$19 per can.

Goals Are Focus of Retreat

Dahlonega City Council members will "get away from it all" at Cohutta Lodge in Chatsworth Nov. 9 and 10, so they can focus on the task at hand: a council retreat. The working retreat will allow the council and city manager to track progress on various goals and projects and to set new goals for the upcoming year.



City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side

Portable Office Taking Root

Progress continues on Dahlonega's temporary City Hall expansion project. The modular building that will house additional office space is taking root between the administration building and the city park, and services soon will be installed to make it fully functional. Reconfiguration of the lobby space inside the main building will follow shortly to improve building security, manage customer and visitor traffic, and help ease office privacy issues.



Don't Pooh Pooh Pet Peeves

Far be it from city officials to want to alienate Dahlonega's doggie visitors and their owners. But they've found themselves in the position of having to deal with the delicate matter of, well...pooch pooh pooh. It's turning up on the lovely lawns of public parks, even in the carefully tended flower beds on the Public Square, and people are getting peeved about it. The city hopes posting this message on signs around town will help change pet owners' behavior:



Pet Waste
Transmits Disease
Leash & Clean Up After
Your Pet
It's the Law
\$25 - \$200 Fine

Concern about Cats

The city is concerned about a growing problem with feral cats, especially in the area of the city park next to City Hall. In general, feral cat populations develop when stray cats that were once pets return to a wild state after being lost, abandoned or neglected. They band together in colonies and produce many litters of kittens that also receive no veterinary care and have little or no exposure to humans. Eventually the colonies can become quite large, consisting of many generations of sick and malnourished cats. Diseases, such as



feline leukemia, spread rapidly among the cats as their numbers continue to grow, and although feral cats don't typically attack people, they may react viciously if provoked or frightened. If you become aware of feral cats in the city, please do not feed them or approach them. Instead, report their whereabouts to City Hall at 706-864-6133 so they can be safely removed from public areas. Above all, have your own pets spayed or neutered. In the long run, making pet spaying and neutering a community priority is the most effective way to combat the problem of feral cats.

City Shares Experience

Dahlonega recently welcomed a dozen or so community leaders from neighboring Ellijay. The group visited to learn about how Dahlonega structured its downtown economic development program, basing it on the Historic Preservation Commission and Better Hometown Program models. Joel Cordle, Dahlonega's Better Hometown Manager and Downtown Development Authority director, shared information about what has been successful for the city and the role of the DDA in what has been accomplished. Joel, who was delighted to host the group, says cities can benefit greatly by sharing information and experiences with each other.



Adult Beverage Fees Raised

The cost of becoming licensed to sell adult beverages in the city of Dahlonega has gone up a bit as the city makes sure it covers administrative costs associated with the licensing and enforcement processes. Licenses for beer and wine package sales have been increased from \$500 to \$600 per license annually, while licenses for liquor-by-the-drink sales have gone up from \$1,500 to \$1,750 annually. Council members also have approved an amended version of the city's consumption-on-the-premises ordinance, which consolidated several previous amendments into a single, comprehensive ordinance to make the contents easier to understand.



City Buying Old School Property

The old Lumpkin County elementary school on North Park Street just north of the Public Square served the community well for decades before the facility outlived its usefulness. Now, it looks like the land—minus the building—may well continue to serve the public good for decades to come. The city of Dahlonega has agreed to purchase the property from the board of education, hoping eventually to use it for some type of municipal service facility, perhaps even a new city hall. With precious little land left downtown that might be suitable for such a facility, city officials saw the availability of the property as an opportunity that probably wouldn't come around again. In the short term, it will most likely serve as a much-needed parking lot.

How May We Be of Service ?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor
Michael Clemons
Guy Laboa
Gerald Lord
Sam Norton
Terry Peters
Bill Scott

Bill Lewis, City Manager

Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at www.cityofdahlonega.com.

City Council: 1st Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Planning/Zoning Commission: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

Historic Preservation Commission: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority: 3rd Thursdays alternately at City Hall or Chamber of Commerce building (November at City Hall)



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